

### Comments on CODIB Task Team V Report

1. It was the intent of USIB that this team should "develop a biographic intelligence processing plan" (see recommendation F, USIB-D-39.7/5). This major task was not considered by this team.

2. There is an obvious, pressing need for better service by the agencies in the National Agency Check (NAC) program. This activity in the CI/Security systems (in contrast to the PI systems) is relatively well-structured and amenable to immediate automation. There is high-volume activity into large, reasonably well-structured data bases with relatively short unit records. This system could be completely implemented with clear operational payoff for a fraction of the cost of the COINS experiment. The DoD is presently combining and converting the three service security indexes into common format IBM cards and plans to design a computer-driven index look-up operation in FY 67. The CODIB and related CI/Security biographic communities could, by complimentary action, immediately develop plans for early implementation of an automated communication network between the appropriate agencies. It now takes several weeks for the typical determination that there are no records on a given individual in the various agencies so requested. This could easily be a one-day response time machine language communication system at an unclassified level with probably less (but certainly no significant increase in) expense than is now involved with the manual system. In this connection, three points should be made:

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a. The NAC system could and should, as an evolutionary step, use the basic search strategy of searching exact name and variations only and not attempt, in the first phase, to utilize a name variant look-up strategy. This would be a significant improvement over the present system in terms of accuracy, consistency and depth.

b. The NAC system using machine language could be readily so structured that those agencies not to be automated for some years to come in their internal name look-up systems could still participate and take advantage of the machine language system. This could be done by utilizing media (such as punch cards) which can also be read and acted upon by humans in the manual mode. The point here is that automation of the NAC system need not wait for any automation, actual or planned, of the internal name look-up operations of the various participating agencies. For further details, see my paper on Evolution of a NAC System.

c. The one-day (turn around) response time would highlight the present additional significant processing time taking place within each agency, thus accelerating improvement in this area.

3. Although the team considered the problem of standardized rules for name recording and look-up and it was agreed that this would be helpful, no such rules were agreed upon by the team. No determination was made as to what precise rules for name recording

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and look-up are being followed by the various CI/Security system holders. Nothing was determined by the team beyond a mere listing of the data elements that are included in each agency's system.

4. The team did not produce any documentation concerning what kind of people (in terms of nationality, professional activities, relationship to various agencies, missions, position in government, etc.) are contained in the various indexes and files. This information would help the respective agencies to determine which holdings might best be checked for possible results. This information is, of course, known to varying degrees by a great number of people in the biographic community, but there is no clear written statement of such coverage existing today.

5. A fundamental problem in the whole biographic area is the one of compatibility as it relates to data elements, data bases, communication systems, machine programs, and actual equipment. The differentiation between these and the degree of importance of each were not covered by the report.

6. Both Project White Stork at FTD and Cross-Check at Library of Congress as well as the Passport and Visa files at Department of State easily fall within the definition of "major indices" as defined by the team; however, these were not considered in the report.

7. The critical need for certain agencies that have not yet commenced their conversion to machine language was not highlighted in the report. It can be shown with information gathered by the team that it costs approximately 10¢ a card to convert to

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machine language. Thus, an agency is literally wasting \$100,000 for each million cards that it is presently typing on manual cards. Since less than half of the approximately eleven million cards being produced yearly are being put into machine language at the present time, over one-half million dollars is being lost by the NAC community each year, by the continuation of the decision not to convert to machine language. It is suggested that no reason has been set forth why this half million or more dollars yearly loss should be continued.

8. In view of the above, the following recommendations are made:

(a) it is recommended that a working group be established which would "develop a biographic intelligence processing plan" in accordance with the original intention of CODIB. It is suggested that this be composed only of members of those agencies that are concerned in the positive intelligence biographic activities. This recommendation is made with the above restriction because it is felt that the Positive and the CI/Security biographic systems are indeed discrete "systems" which should develop separately because of the differing requirements, data bases and organizational channels. (It is fully expected that as the years progress the two automated systems will learn to "talk" to each other.

(b) It is recommended that a working group be established to 1) determine standardized rules for name

*for name & other ident. data element*  
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recording to be used for inter-agency NAC queries; 2) develop a plan for the immediate implementation of an automated communication network between the appropriate NAC agencies utilizing exact name queries in the Phase I system.

c. A working group be established to monitor and report progress to CODIB periodically on the status of the automation programs of the biographic holdings involved in the NAC program. This would particularly be pertinent to the progress of the conversion of the various holdings into machine language with a goal of saving the one-half million dollars being lost annually within this community due to the none-conversion of the new entries into machine language.

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